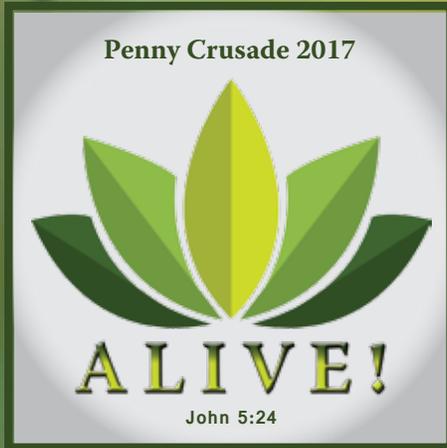


Penny Crusade 2017



Alejandro

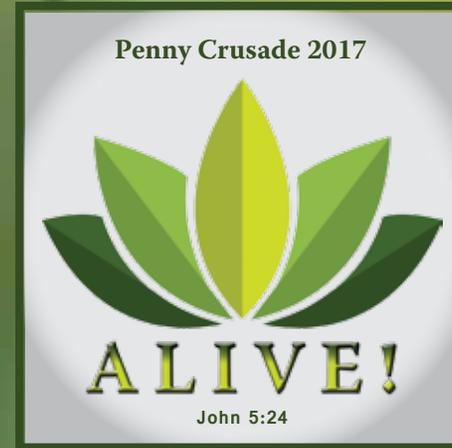
The message of the gospel brings life and hope to those trapped by death and despair. Pastor Alejandro Rodriguez is a man who has been made alive in Christ and he now strives to share that life with others around him.

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Alejandro remembers, "I felt that prison would be my death sentence. I became a kingpin in the prison, but constantly feared for my life. There was always the threat of violence from other gangs in there. Although I was a boss in prison, my life



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was completely empty. I was ready to commit suicide. One day a pastor came to preach the gospel to us prisoners. At that point, Jesus brought me back to life!”

The rest of Alejandro’s time in prison was spent growing in his new faith. He began to read his Bible, pray and fellowship with other believers. Upon his release from prison he joined a church and sought to determine what the Lord wanted in his life. Eventually the Lord called him to be a pastor. He obtained training from a nearby Bible institute, and about 10 years ago he began pastoring Casa de Oración Torre Fuerte in Ensenada.

The community Alejandro serves in is not an easy place to minister. It is full of conflict rooted in poverty, drugs, and the crime and violence that often accompany them. But who better suited to minister to those trapped in this culture of death than one who lived in that same culture and has now been made alive.

Alejandro embraces this calling. He knows what Jesus has done for him and can do for others. As he says, “I am often reminded that where there is much sin, there is much grace. That was true in my life.”

Alejandro did all of the tile work on the floor of his church. The floor is interesting because it is made of many broken pieces put together in a beautiful mosaic.

Alejandro reflects, “This floor is like our lives. The pieces of tile were broken and trash that no one wanted. But God takes broken trash and makes something beautiful from it just like this floor. That’s what he did in my life and he wants to do that for others.”

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